

**CITY OF MIAMI BEACH**  
**Office of the City Manager**  
**Letter to Commission No. 118-2004**



**To:** Mayor David Dermer and  
Members of the City Commission

**Date:** May 18, 2004

**From:** Jorge M. Gonzalez  
City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jorge".

**Subject: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S POSITION ON THE  
REPLACEMENT OF THE 63RD STREET FLYOVER**

Attached please find a letter recently received from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) relative to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Flyover Project.

As described in the attached letter, the position of FDOT is to proceed with the at grade solution for the replacement of the current 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Flyover.

FDOT is of the opinion that recent traffic analysis performed by the City and by FDOT have confirmed that the at grade solution for the replacement of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Flyover is the best available option.

The letter also indicates that it is FDOT's intention to proceed with design and construction of this project without incorporating the easement requested on City property. By not incorporating the City's easement, what will be sacrificed in the project is the landscaped median that had been previously provided to provide some aesthetic appeal within the project area. The actual travel and turn lanes are not affected by the loss of this easement.

We will ask that a representative of FDOT attend the next Commission meeting to help address questions which members of the Commission may still have regarding this project. FDOT will not have an interest in revisiting the entire project history. It is our understanding that in the event the City approves the easement requested by FDOT, that FDOT will amend the design to incorporate the easement and reinstitute the landscape median.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JMC/RCM".  
JMC/RCM/sam  
F:\cmgr\ALL\BOB\FDOT63stflyovereasement\lrc.doc

Attachment

**C:** Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager  
Fred Beckmann, Director of Public Works



RECEIVED

MAY 11 PM 3:37  
CITY MANAGERS OFFICE

**Florida Department of Transportation**

**JEB BUSH**  
GOVERNOR

1000 Northwest 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, Florida 33172-5800  
Telephone No.: (305) 470-5464

**JOSE ABREU**  
SECRETARY

May 11, 2004

Mr. Jorge Gonzalez  
City Manager  
City of Miami Beach  
1700 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Re: FM No. 249940-1 / 407935-1 / Replacement of 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Flyover and  
63<sup>rd</sup> Street Bascule Bridge rehabilitation

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

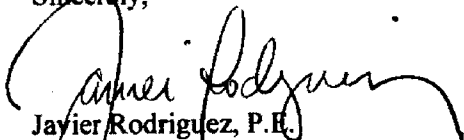
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) plans to proceed with the proposed replacement of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street flyover with an at-grade triple left-turn intersection. I was informed that the intent of the May 5, 2004 City Commission meeting was to approve a perpetual easement needed by FDOT, and also to discuss the City's independent traffic analysis performed by HNTB.

As you know, the FDOT has studied and re-studied this project over the past 12 years. As a result of those studies, the City Commission passed a resolution in June 2000 (Commission Resolution No. 2000-23965) agreeing to the removal of the flyover and replacement with an at-grade intersection. As part of that agreement, the FDOT added landscaped medians and enhanced the pedestrian features on the project.

We are at a point where all of the independent traffic analyses performed, now and then, confirms that the at-grade intersection improves the traffic operations, and safety of this area. Therefore, I have instructed our designers to modify the design plans to eliminate the need for the City's easement and move forward with our scheduled construction letting. The ramification of this re-design is the loss of the landscaped median on Indian Creek between 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and 65<sup>th</sup> Street. The removal of the City's parcel does not alter any of the pedestrian features.

Since we will not require the easement from the City, FDOT will not be attending the May 26th Commission meeting. I hope this letter clarifies the Department's position. Should you like to discuss this issue in more detail please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Javier Rodriguez, P.E.  
Director of Production

c: Bob

cc: Fred H. Beckmann, Director of Public Works, Miami Beach  
John Martinez, Secretary FDOT District VI